starred Question 1392 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th November, 1987 and state:

(a) the outcome of the various remedial steps taken so far to check the impact of drought and floods on landless labourers and farmers; and

(b) the percentage of small farmers and landless labourers still estimated to go below poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) Estimation of percentages of small farmers and landless labourers likely to go below the poverty line on account of drought and floods has not been made; it is difficult to make such an estimation because of the short term effects of drought and floods.

As a result of the relief measures taken by Central and State Governments, 61.38 lakh persons, mostly belonging to landless labourers and farmers, have been provided employment; 26.86 lakh persons belonging to the families of these groups are being provided supplementary nutrition; and 17.28 lakh heads of cattle belonging to these groups are taken care of in cattle camps.

Increase in the price of Sugarcane

1698. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) how much extra amount is estimated to go to the farmers as a result of increase in the minimum price of sugarcane, a recent hike in sugar prices and also reduction of the quota of levy sugar to 50 per cent; and

(b) how much extra amount is estimated to go to the sugar factory sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CI SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA (a) and (b) The recent increase in the levy sugar price by 25 paise per kilogram was due to increase in the Statutory minimum Price of Sugarcane for 1987-88 from Rs. 17.00 to Rs. 18.50 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery and higher manufacturing cost of sugar determined for 1987-88 based on cost schedules and other parameters recommended by the Expert Body, namely, the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP).

As usual, sugar factories in most of the sugar producing States are paying to the farmers sugarcane price higher than the Statutory Minimum, based on the prices advised by the respective State Governments. The cane price being paid during the current season is, on an average, higher by Rs. 2/- per quintal as compared to last year. In some of the States, e.g., Maharashtra and Gujarat, the farmers are paid in the beginning an advance price pending settlement of final price at the end of the season. In view of this position, the extra amount likely to be realised by the farmers and the sugar factories this year cannot be quantified.

Report of the Committee for reduction in expenditure in D.D.A.

1699. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2894 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 1987 and state:

(a) whether the sub-committee appointed by the DDA to suggest ways and means to reduce heavy expenditure on its establishment has since submitted its report; if so, whether Government have examined the report:

(b) what is Government's reaction each of the recommendations of the sub-committee; and

(c) if the report has not been submitted/examined by Government so far, what interim measures have been taken by Government in accordance with the aims of the sub-committee and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Authority Resolution No. 87 dated 10-8-87 a sub-committee was constituted on 25-9-1987 to suggest ways and means to reduce the expenditure on establishment in DDA. The Committee has not yet submitted its report. No time limit has been prescribed to submit the report.

(c) Vice-Chairman has started

(i) personal reviews of various wings for locating surplus employees.

(ii) The surplus staff would be diverted to the new projects to avoid fresh recruitment.

(iii) orders for economy in expenditure have been issued.

(iv) economy in the use of petrol in the vehicles is strictly observed. Repair of staff cars jeeps is being minimised.

Rise in the prices of essential commodities

1700. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of price rise in the consumer prices of essential commodities from 31st March, 1987 to 31st October, 1987 and from 31st October, 1987 to 31st January, 1988;

(b) what was the rise in the same periods in each of the three previous years;

(c) what was this rise in the same periods mentioned above for the cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Jammu; and

(d) consumer prices of the commodities controlled by Administration as on January 31, 1988 and also in 1986 and 1987 on the same date?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) to (c) Available information is given in the attached Statement-I [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 67.]

(d) Available information is given in the attached Statement-II [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 68.]

Production of vegetable oils and cooking oils in the country

1701. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vegetable oil and cooking oil producing mils in the country state-wise till January, 1988;

(b) the total production of vegetable oils and cooking oils in the country during the last two years;

(c) the total requirement of vegetable and cooking oils in the country; and

(d) the quantum and value of vegetable oils imported during the last two years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) A Statement is attached. (*See* below).